

DIRAUX NOTES

A Publication of the 13th District Auxiliary Office

April 2003

FROM THE DIRECTOR

LCDR Kelly Boodell

Congratulations to The 2002 Auxiliarist of the Year, Robert Wells, FL-19!!

First Flotilla Commissioning under the Department of Homeland Security: Welcome aboard to our newest Flotilla to District 13, Flotilla 7-13 of Scappoose, OR!!

Unit Officer Report: At the IS training session, SO-IS's were told that DIRAUX has now authorized the SO-IS's to enter the yearly Unit Officer Report and the Change Of Officer Reports. DCP's & FC's are advised to send these forms to their SO-IS for entry.

NAVRULES on-line: Check out the NAVRULES on-line, brand new on the NAVCEN website. Just for instance, once you get to the page, click on "arc of visibility" on the left column. The Quarter Masters were excited about it, they just posted it, and wanted me to pass it on to all our Auxiliary friends. <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/>

Your Receipts: Attention all facility owners: please remember to include your receipts/certificate in lieu of receipts along with your completed 5132's. Any one of your claims could be audited by FinCen at any time, we'd like to prevent any future hassles and do not want to jeopardize the smooth reimbursement of POMS by our failure to comply with one of the fundamental premises it is based on!

Acronyms: Every organization has its rendition of acronyms, and the Auxiliary is no different, as long as we are all using the same acronyms. After reading a number of letters, e-mails, address labels, and newsletters not everyone is on the same page of acronyms. Please get back to basics and look at the Aux Manual, Flotilla Commanders Handbook, Publications and Public Affairs procedures guide and follow the guidance listed. An example, DC is not correct for DCP; VC is not correct for VCP; Commander is not correct for FC; and DSO does not mean Division Staff Officer. Lieutenant Commander is abbreviated as LCDR, Commander is CDR and Captain is CAPT. Please adjust to the correct acronyms.

DSO Attendance to Division Meetings: If a DCP would like to have a DSO attend their training session/meeting, just contact the DSO specialty of your choice to see if the DSO is available. Then send an e-mail to the VCO who will issue a D-13 Auxiliary Travel Order to the selected DSO for the date requested. Upon training session completion, the DSO completes the Travel Order and returns it to the VCO. That's all there is to it. Any questions, contact the VCO. (DCO)

District Directory: To keep our Directory current is dependent on each member providing their corrected information to include e-mail address, to the respective IS officer. An updated Directory will be made available by mid-2003, and we will be moving forward with a 2004 Directory immediately following 2003 elections. So keep your membership information and e-mail current as the 2004 Directory will be available not later than mid December 2003. (DCO)

Farewell Bobbie! Ms. Roberta Heim is retiring on 03 APR 03 after 35 years of dedicated service as a federal employee! We will surely miss her and request that you no longer e-mail or leave phone messages for her. Please route your requests via your chain so that an answer can be delivered to you in the most expeditious manner possible. This announcement came as a surprise due to Bobbie's desire to take care of an ill family member, so we haven't had time to plan for her departure. We will have a retirement ceremony and lunch in the future and will let you know when that is. If you are interested in coming to our spaces to help, we would be very grateful. We need folks who are willing to commit to several hours/day(s) a week, and at least until we have someone hired, we are exploring paying for mileage or parking, that will depend on specific circumstances. If you would like to come in and help, please e-mail Jalaine Madura at Jalaine.Madura@metrokc.gov Thank you again, and farewell Bobbie, we will miss you! LCDR Kelly Boodell

FROM OPERATIONS AND TRAINING

CWO4 Paul Bellona

Facility Inspections & Offer For Use Form: Facility Inspections are due into DIRAUX no later than 30 APR 03 if you want your vessel as operational facility for 2003. After this date, we will start placing them in a Non-Operational status in AUXDATA and you will not be able to receive patrol orders. PLEASE make sure that you double check your forms to ensure they are complete before you send them in, so we will not have to send them back. Also put your Division/Flotilla # by your member #, so we can find your facility easier in AUXDATA. Thank-you! **NOTE:** After 30 APR 03, Facility Inspections are due one year after the date that it was completed in AUXDATA. To alleviate a backlog of facilities coming due in April 04, if you do not plan on using your facility as operational until later on in May or June 2003, then you can hold off completing the facility inspection for another month or so. This will help to start spreading facility inspections through-out the year.

2003 Operations Workshop: It is mandatory for all Auxiliary members participating in Surface Operations and the Marine Safety Program to attend this workshop. Auxiliarists are required to attend this workshop prior to 1 JUN 03 in order to be authorized to participate in their respective programs. Members not attending this workshop prior to the cutoff date will not be

FROM OPERATIONS AND TRAINING (Continued)

CWO4 Paul Bellona

eligible to receive orders or credit for any mission during their "uncertified" period. Failure to comply by the deadline will indicate a "not qualified" status in the AUXDATA Individual or Unit Certification Report in the training module.

Patrol Order Management System (POMS): POMS issued patrol orders need to be sent back to the Order Issuing Authority (i.e. Group Seattle, Group Portland, Group Port Angeles, Group North Bend, Group Astoria or the CG station issuing them). Do not send them to DIRAUX or that will delay in getting you paid, since we just forward them on.

QE Info: If you are conducting QE sessions out of your local area, let DIRAUX know via the Regional QE's, so I can get you orders to pay for your travel expenses. This will start happening more as we use more QE's in the Operational Excellence Program and getting ready for the ISAR competition. I do have a separate pot of training funding from D13 for this.

2002 Currency Maintenance/REYR List: I need this list back from all the Divisions that Bruce Miller sent to the DCP/SO-OP, so I can start making the correct changes in AUXDATA for those who require REYR in the Boat Crew, PWC, Marine Dealer Visitor, and Vessel Examiner Programs. We received a waiver from HQ that would have placed everyone in D13 in a REYR status that didn't have their hours or Certification Tasks completed and entered into AUXDATA. But, if I don't get these lists back then I will have to work off the list that HQ sent out and people will be getting put into REYR that shouldn't.

Aid Verifiers (AV) Info: (1) There is a new D13 Aid Verifier (AV) Test out for people qualifying as AV's. The DSO-AN (Mari Wussow) has sent or will shortly send these tests out to the SO-AN/FSO-Ans to give to those wanting to qualify as an AV. (2) Re-certification as a AV: AV's who did not complete an aid in 2002 must attend a PATON Workshop and have it entered into AUXDATA. If a AV has not done an aid in over 2 years, then they must re-take the test and attend a workshop if they are interested in keeping the AV Qualification. (3) D13 Auxiliary policy is that the DSO-AN, SO-AN, and FSO-AN be qualified and current Aid Verifiers. This program requires continual updating to fulfill verifying ATONs and Bridges, along with District/Auxiliary policy through training. It also makes it less confusing in completing 2003 PATON requirements and you did a super job during the 2002 PATON season. (4) Form CG-5474 for Discrepancies – **First two copies go to D13 (oan)** and the rest stay within the Auxiliary chain. Keep up the **Good Work** this year.

Automatic Inflatable PFDs: COMDTNOTE 10470 has been released to update and revise policy concerning the Automatic Inflatable PFDs. It is being placed on the D13 Web Site, so please read in it's entirety. Paragraph 3 does states "Auxiliary boat crew (under orders) shall wear the appropriate Coast Guard approved Type I, II, or III inherently buoyant or coast Guard approved Automatic inflatable PFD at Operational Commanders discretion. Auxiliary personal watercraft operators shall only use inherently buoyant Type III PFDs with a minimum dynamic strength test rating of 50 miles per hour."

Change of Officer Report: Any change of officer (ANSC 7006, Change of Officer Report) will be processed at the SO-IS level and does not need DIRAUX signature. Ensure these are done timely and by the end of the year, so the next Directory (2004) can be put out to everyone on time.

Operational Excellence Program: This is an opportunity for all boat crews to improve their proficiency and skills through a series of evaluated scenarios and if they score high enough, to receive an "E" for excellence Decal/Ribbon. The E-decal is issued to the Coxswain to be placed on the Coxswain's facility (may be displayed for the time remaining in the calendar year earned, plus the next full calendar year). The Coxswain/Team receives a ribbon and may be worn until it is discontinued. It is an award to those who demonstrate a high level of proficiency in boat crew skills, foster teamwork, and encourage fellowship with other operational members. The Operational Excellence Program tasks include Search Planning, Search Execution, Pump Drill, Communications, Complete the normal Currency Maintenance Tasks: Pre-Underway Check off, MOB Drill, Towing Drill. A total of 100 points is possible and a score of 90 is required for the award. This is a great way to hone your underway skills (coxswain and crew), to get ready for your operational missions with the Coast Guard, as well as get ready for the ISAR Competition if you are interested.

ISAR: International SAR Competition between the U. S. Auxiliary and the Canadian Auxiliary will be held on 26-27 SEP in St. John's Newfoundland, with travel days on 25 and 28 SEP. We are putting word out to all D13 Auxiliarists that we will be sending a team to this competition and that COMDT (ocx) will be funding teams from D13 and 5 other Districts to compete. A committee (Bill Houger, Frank Ramer, Katie Zundel, Chuck Olson) met again on 19 MAR via conference call and will continue on a regular basis. Our objective is to ensure that D13 puts the best team together for this competition, as well as getting the most operational training and general readiness for our membership to get them ready to meet any operational mission that the Coast Guard needs assistance with. The D13 Team will be made up of 4 members. Team events will include: Search and Rescue Planning, On-Water SAREX, SAR Pump, Heaving Line 1, Heaving Line 2, and a Mystery Event. Team events for the International Team include: Chart Work, Marlinspike, Water Rescue, Heaving Line 3, and a Mystery Event. Not only are we promoting ISAR, but also the **CG Aux Operational Excellence Program** since it will be used as a foundation for the ISAR competition at all levels and will reward those who work so hard to hone their skills. Since the ISAR competition and the Operational Excellence judging will involve QE's, it is also a great opportunity for boat crew candidates to qualify. To provide additional accomplishments, we also encourage the use of this time to re-certify early, especially for the 5th year certification and to get new members involved in the boat crew program. Additional information will be coming out on the D13 Web Site, DIRAUXNOTES and from the DCP's/DSO-OPs. **This is a excellent way to get involved in the Boat Crew Program and to receive some good underway training this year, so hop on board with us. D13 is also hoping to host this event in 2004.**

FROM OPERATIONS AND TRAINING (Continued)

CWO4 Paul Bellona

National Safe Boating Week: If the DSO-PA/FSO-Pa's have not received your National Safe Boating Week Campaign Kit in the mail, then please order them on line at <http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com/> . They went out in the mail, but the mailing list that the Campaign Manager had was incomplete and only 18 went out.

FROM THE OFFICE MANAGER

SK1 Nelson Fritz

PATROL ORDERS: Most of the D13 Groups and Stations have now adapted to the new POMS system for issuing and processing surface patrol orders. From the feedback we've been receiving from Group Seattle and Portland, the process seems to be working well. With that said, DIRAUX is still receiving the hard copies of the completed orders. Please don't send them to our office. We don't want them and have no requirement on our end to keep those copies.

The copies I've recently received, I've forwarded them on to LTJG Whitcomb for processing. However, this creates more unnecessary work and is an additional step that WILL delay your reimbursement. Also, when filling out those new POMS issued tonos, please include the actual tono in lieu of writing the POMS generated 5 digit number. It's easier to track payment inquiries down the road.

Air Patrols are exempt from this instruction until all of the D13 Air Stations are 100% on-line with POMS.

MILEAGE RATES: Please note that after 01 January 2003, the mileage rate has decreased from \$0.365/mile to just \$0.36 cents for the remainder of CY 03.

FROM THE COMPUTER SECTION

Ms. Bobbie Heim

Farewell! I will miss everyone, and I'm sorry to be leaving so many fine people. I've been working in this office since August 1985, and wanted to stay for at least another five years. However, family concerns must take priority over employment. My Mother's health has deteriorated, and isn't expected to improve. I need to spend time with her, and take care of her. I hope to stay in touch, as an occasional visitor.

FROM THE MEMBER STATUS SECTION

Ms. Shirley Blanchett

AUXILIARIST VOLUNTEERS: The DIRAUX office has been receiving administrative help from several Auxiliarists. SHARON AND JOHN RESECK, flotilla 41, have been working on Sustained Auxiliary Service awards, and HAL INGRAM, flotilla 32, has been working on Auxiliary Condolence letters. Also, JALINE MADURA has been coordinating our Auxiliary volunteer helpers and learning the processes in the DIRAUX office. ALBERTA TOBEY, flotilla 24, helps with document maintenance, and JACK GRUBB, flotilla 38, works on Currency Maintenance and Facility Inspections. The DIRAUX office also farms out the AUXOP Specialty exams to JACK FEATHER, flotilla 56; who helps long distance all the way in California! I would like to publicly thank each of them for the volunteer time that they have given this office. Their efforts have helped to expedite processing of many DIRAUX office functions. Through their efforts the DIRAUX office is better able to serve our Auxiliarists. Kudos to each of you!

E-MAIL ADDRESSES: On the most recent Enrollment Application there is a space provided for E-mail addresses. When providing your E-mail address please use extra care to print legibly. The old Enrollment Applications do not have a space for including your E-mail address. Never the less, we would like new applicants to include their E-mail addresses within the section provided for telephone numbers.

COMPUTER SECTION POINT OF CONTACT: Shirley Blanchett, E-Mail: sblanchett@pacnorwest.uscg.mil, or telephone # 1-800-982-8813 Ext. 7088 or # (206) 220-7088 is the designated Computer Section POC. Please use E-Mail to resolve problems whenever possible, however, please remember to utilize the chain of communications. E-Mail messages can be printed, prioritized, and researched easily. Telephone calls may be routed to voice mail, and recorded calls usually leave out some of the essential information. I'll try to solve problems, in the AUXDATA and in the Member Status sections just as soon as possible. I appreciate your understanding and patience as I take on the added responsibilities from the Computer Section. Together with DIRAUX's volunteer force, I know we will be able to meet the Auxiliary's needs. Along those lines, the DIRAUX office can ALWAYS use more volunteer help. If you are able and willing to give some of your time, please contact Jalaine Madura at Jalaine.Madura@metrokc.gov She will help to plug you in.